

THE
HISTORY
OF
JOSEPH.



Christ disputing in the Temple.

NEW HAVEN.
SIDNEY BARCOCK.

58

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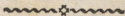
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THE
HISTORY OF JOSEPH.

ILLUSTRATED WITH
BEAUTIFUL PICTURES.



The wise men and the star in the East.



NEW HAVEN.
Published by S. Babcock.





The Deluge.



Noah's Sacrifice.

THE
HISTORY OF JOSEPH.

Jacob had twelve sons, and these sons were the heads of the twelve tribes or families of Israel. Their names were Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Isaachar, Zebulon, Dan, Napthali, Gad, Asher, Joseph, and Benjamin. Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children, and he made for him a coat of many colors. But his brothers hated him on this account. And Joseph dreamed two dreams, and he told them to his brothers, and this made them hate him still more, for these dreams seemed to Joseph's brethren to

mean, that they were all to be his servants.

One day, when they were feeding their flocks at some distance from home, their father sent Joseph to them, to see if they were all well. And when they saw him coming, they said to one another, Here comes the dreamer, let us kill him. But Reuben said, Do not kill him; let us put him in this deep pit. He meant to take Joseph out again, after they were all gone, and send him home to his father. But it happened that some Arabian merchants passed by, on their journey to Egypt, while Reuben was absent; and the brethren took Joseph out of



the pit and sold him to these merchants as a slave. They carried home the coat of many colors which Jacob had given to Joseph, and, to make their poor father think that he had been killed by some wild beast, they dipped it in blood, and said to him, See if this be thy son's coat? How cruel and wicked was

this conduct ! But God, who over-ruleth all things, caused good to come out of their evil deeds.

Joseph was carried to Egypt by the Arabian merchants, and sold as a slave to one of the officers of king Pharaoh. Here he served his master with such zeal and fidelity, that he was made overseer of the whole house and of all that his master had.

After a while, Joseph was falsely accused of a crime ; he was entirely innocent,— he had done nothing at all that was wrong ; but his angry master did not know this, and believing Joseph to be guilty, he put him into prison



But God knew Joseph's innocence, and he did not forget him. God will not forget those who love and serve him, and you will see that he finally raised Joseph from the misery of a prison to the splendor of a ruler in Egypt.

The kindness and good conduct of Joseph and

him the love and esteem of all the other prisoners, and of the jailor also. Among the prisoners who were there with him, were two of the king's servants; one of these was the butler, and the other was the baker to the king. These men each had a dream which troubled them much, and they told these dreams to Joseph. And God gave wisdom to Joseph to know what these dreams meant.

In about two years after this time, king Pharaoh dreamed a singular dream, of which none of his wise men could tell the meaning. At last, the chief butler, who had been in prison with Joseph, told the king that Jo-



seph could explain the dream. So Joseph was sent for, and he told Pharaoh that God meant by this dream to show him that there were to be seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt; and that these were to be followed by seven years of famine. This explanation pleased the king so

10 PLENTY AND FAMINE.

much, that he put a ring upon his finger, a chain of gold about his neck, and made him ride in his second chariot in great splendor; and Joseph became a great ruler among the people.

Joseph's words were true. The years of plenty were followed by the years of famine, and the scarcity of food extended even to the land of Canaan, where Jacob and his sons lived. As Joseph had wisely advised the king to lay up great stores of corn during the years of plenty, people from all parts of the country flocked into Egypt to buy it.

Among others came the brothers of Joseph. They did not know him, but he re

remembered them, and, after a time, made himself known to them. And he loaded them with presents, instead of returning them evil for evil, and sent them home to their father with the joyful news that Joseph was yet alive.

And Jacob, with all his family, and their flocks and herds, went down to Egypt, and Pharaoh gave them a pleasant part of Egypt to live in, where there was plenty of food for all of them.

After many years, when Jacob, and all his children were dead, there was a new king on the throne of Egypt, who cared nothing about the wisdom and prudence of Joseph, which had been so

great a blessing to the people of Egypt. He treated the descendants of Joseph and his brethren, who were now very numerous, with great cruelty. But God raised up Moses for their leader, and Moses demanded of the king that he should let them go out of Egypt and journey a long way off in the wilderness, to worship God.

But this king, whose name was also Pharaoh, would not let them go. It was not till God had punished him with many dreadful judgments, that he would consent. The last sad punishment was the death of all the first-born of the Egyptians. About midnight there was a great cry



in every house, among them; from the splendid palace of the king to the meanest hovel of the poorest slave, the first-born had suddenly died. But with the Israelites, as the children of Jacob were called, there was nothing of the kind.

Then the king sent to Moses, urging him to lead the Israelites out of the country

immediately. But after they were gone, the king repented that he had let them go; and he took a large army and followed them. He came up with them just as they had reached the Red Sea. And there was no way for the Israelites to escape, for the sea was before them, and the Egyptians behind them. But God divided the waters of the sea, so that there was a passage through it, and the Israelites, with all their little ones, and their flocks and their herds, went through on dry land. The waters were like a wall on their right hand and on their left,—and they all reached the opposite shore in safety.

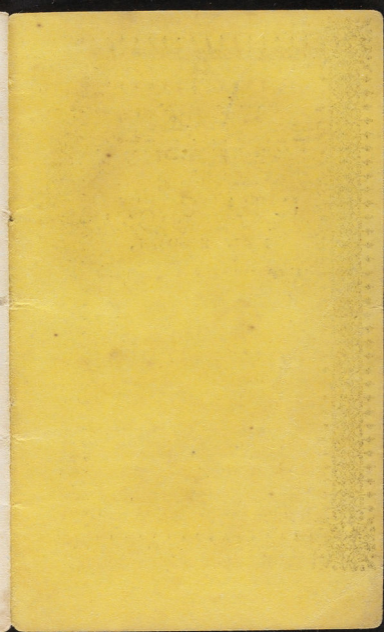


When the Egyptians saw that the Israelites had all gone through the Red Sea, and that there was still a passage in it, they thought that they too could pass over in the same way. And Pharaoh, with his officers and soldiers, his chariots and horsemen, went down into the bed of the sea.

16 EGYPTIANS DROWNED.



Then the Lord told Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea ; and Moses did so, and the waters came back and closed over them, and the king and his warriors, his chariots and horsemen were overwhelmed, and the whole host perished. Thus the Lord saved the children of Israel from their enemies





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